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APPLICANTS : Vernet et al.

SERIAL NUMBER : 09/825,751

EXAMINER : Misook Yu TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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ART UNIT : 1642

FOR : NOVEL PROTEINS AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to further examination, please amend the application as indicated below.

In the claims:

Please replace pending claims with the claims provided below:

1. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a mature form of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20;
- (b) a variant of a mature form of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of the amino acid residues from the amino acid sequence of said mature form;
- (c) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20; and
- (d) a variant of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20, wherein one or more amino acid residues in said variant differs from the amino acid sequence of said mature form, provided that said variant differs in no more than 15% of amino acid residues from said amino acid sequence.

2 (Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of a naturally-occurring allelic variant of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:20.